



### *A Message from Pastor Mathew*

Zion Lutheran Church is celebrating 225 years of faithful ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! This is a month for joy, praise, worship, and thanksgiving. But even as we celebrate, I want to offer up a meaningful perspective from which to view this joyous occasion, drawn from two Old Testament books Ezra and Nehemiah.

These books recount the return of God's people from exile and the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the walls, the temple, and most importantly, their worship life. When it all came together, a massive celebration broke out: choirs marched from both sides of the city, trumpets blasted, sacrifices were offered, and the joy was so great it could be heard from neighboring towns and villages. It was a beautiful moment of worship and thanksgiving. It was a great point, in fact, to finish the writing of this story. But, as you read through it in the Bible, you'd see that there was still one chapter left to read.

Compared to the joy we see at the end of Nehemiah 12, the final chapter of Nehemiah is sobering. Not long after the celebration, the people faltered again. They neglected worship, disrespected the Levites, ignored the Sabbath, and compromised their calling. Nehemiah, heartbroken, appears to lose his mind and rebuke the people. And suddenly, Nehemiah's book is over. It's a surprising and sudden end but an honest one, one that completes the overall point of the story. These books remind us that while moments of celebration matter, they're part of a larger story, one that is still flawed, one that still longs for a perfect Savior. And that Savior is Jesus.

Now, on the other side of that promise fulfilled, we at Zion look back not only at 225 years of ministry, but also at the faithfulness of God through all the highs and lows of those 225 years. We've had seasons of strength, and seasons of struggle. But through it all, Christ has been at the center.

So what are we celebrating? Not just a number. Not just events, people, or even pastors. We're celebrating the unshakable truth that, by grace, Zion has been called to be an ambassador of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the good and the not-so-good. Like the people in Ezra and Nehemiah, we're both faithful and flawed. And like them, our story ultimately points to Jesus, who is our hope, our foundation, and our joy.

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*We will tell the  
next generation  
about the glorious  
deeds of the Lord,  
about His power  
and His mighty  
wonders.*

*Psalms 78:4*

#### **OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST**

To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact.  
Ephesians 4:11-26

### *A Message from Pastor Mathew (Continued from page 1)*

This gives us even more reason to celebrate because while in the good we can lift our voices high and thank God, now even in the not-so-good, we can still lift our voices high and thank God. So, let's do that. Let's get our party shoes on and make this a month of celebration. Let's make so much noise in our worship and our praise that it shakes foundations from the cornerstone of Zion to the far reaches of our mission field. To God be the glory, now and always. Amen!

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

*You are cordially invited*

225th Anniversary Celebration of

## **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4301 Brownsville Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15236

[zlcbrentwood.org](http://zlcbrentwood.org)

**August 24, 2025**

9:00a.m. Worship

11:00a.m. Brunch \*



Brunch tickets can be purchased before or after worship  
6/8 - 8/4, or call the church office.

Adult \$20 / Child \$10

(not to exceed \$60 per household family)

\*Brunch location:

### **South Hills Country Club**

4305 Brownsville Rd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15236



Zion Lutheran Church

## **225th Anniversary of Zion Where We Have Been and Where Are We Going?**

We are about to celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Zion Lutheran Church on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Amazing – Zion is only 25 years younger than our country!

The celebration of an anniversary reminds us that Christian people living in the midst of the world's history are like Janus of Roman mythology, who looked simultaneously forward and backward. Our look back at two hundred and twenty-five years of this congregation's life gives us courage and hope for the next two hundred and twenty-five years. I am reminded of a text that marks a similar turning point in the Bible: the opening seventeen verses of Matthew 1:1-17 and of the New Testament. This might seem like a strange text: seventeen verses of names — who was the father of whom for forty-two generations.

It's a passage that's never included in a lectionary. It seems like mere background information. But in Matthew's understanding of the gospel, and in the logic of the New Testament canon that places Matthew's gospel first, this genealogy is the proper beginning for the story of Jesus. Why is Jesus' family history so important at this juncture in the Bible?

Jesus' genealogy serves an important purpose. It tells readers just who Jesus was. The original readers of this gospel were Jewish people, who Matthew believed could best understand Jesus if they knew how He fit into their history. *"You know who Abraham was," he says, "and Isaac and Jacob and David and Solomon. This Jesus, the Christ, is their descendant."*

In this long genealogy of Jesus, Matthew tells them, *"The meaning of your history is not in the past, but in the present. The significance of Abraham and Jacob and David is not that they lived in the 'good old days' when God really cared, but that they were forerunners of Jesus."* The importance of Israel's history, for Matthew, was the outcome toward which it was leading for those forty-two generations: the birth of the Savior.

Matthew's reasons for beginning his gospel with Jesus' genealogy suggest a Christian view of history that shapes our reflections on our anniversary. **First**, as a church we are formed and identified by our history, by where we have been in our past. And **second**, the meaning of that history is determined by the future, by where our history is leading us.

Our faith is further shaped by the centuries of Christian history since the Bible was written. We make our confession in the words of ancient creeds; we sing hymns hundreds of years old; we practice rites and liturgies older than the languages in which we recite them. And of course, on this anniversary, we remember the history of Zion in this community: the generations of our own families who have been born, baptized, married and buried here; the traditions that we have created, and that have in turn made us the people we are. Today we are proud to say that we are part of that whole history, just as Jesus was part of the history of Israel, all forty-two generations from Abraham on down.

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## *A Message from Pastor Bill (Continued from page 3)*

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We're all identified by our histories. Matthew introduced Jesus to his readers as Mary and Joseph's boy, David's twenty-eight-times-great-grandson. We owe who we are to our past, our heritage, our upbringing and education, our traditions. You and this congregation are products of where we have been.

Matthew also knew that the past isn't enough. He wanted to correct the vision of those people who always looked to the past for meaning. The real point of all those generations of Israelites, he claimed, was that they were leading up to something that was to follow them. We can learn a lot from the past, but its most important function is to lead us into the future.

Jesus made that plain. He told His disciples to remember what He had done, but He also turned their attention to the future task that His ministry was preparing them for. **"Go and be my witnesses,"** He told them. **"Go and work in the vineyard. Go and make disciples."** Jesus never let His disciples dwell on what had already been done. Their purpose was not to be found in where they had been, but in where they were going.

Our faith is born and nurtured in a historical experience, in what God has done for us in the past, but it always leads us into the future. As a church today, our anniversary celebration naturally turns our gaze back on our history. But we must let that history be part of our movement into the future. Jesus has commissioned us and sent us into the world with a mission: how will we fulfill it?

We have a responsibility to our young people, to prepare them for what they will face in life. We have a responsibility to our elderly people, to help meet their needs in a changing world. We have a responsibility to the community around us, to proclaim the good news of salvation and to be examples of Christ's love. Let the stories of faith, commitment, and service that are told as we recite the history of Zion strengthen us, prepare us, and propel us into the next 225 years of our ministry in this place.

And the question *"Where are we going?"* has a still greater significance, because as Christians we know that our history has an eternal conclusion, an ultimate goal. In the incarnation, death and resurrection of Christ the world has been set toward its final moment, in which it will be both finished and begun anew. We — along with Abraham and Sarah, Boaz and Ruth, Joseph and Mary, and hundreds of generations of the sons and daughters of God — are part of the history that flows into God's own eternity.

Our history is always leading us forward; our glory as God's children is always yet to come.

Alive in Christ

**Pastor Bill\***

**1** *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.....***16** *and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. 17 So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.*  
**Matthew 1: 1, 16-17**



## In Our Prayers

Joshua Alukonis  
Kevin Barrett  
Linda Bliss  
Lynn Broman  
David Detwiler  
Mary Ann Dunlap  
Corey Fischer  
Joy Hepner  
Marshawna Hill  
Casey Hirsh  
George Langford  
Glenn Ribblett  
Dani Richey  
Suzanne Roberts  
Saundra Schlessman  
Shannon Schubert  
Sara Smerkar  
Judy Workman

**Worship Times**  
**Saturday 5 PM**  
**Sunday 9 AM**

Except on 8/3/25,  
9a Worship will be  
at South Park  
(see page 6)

See Zion's Website for  
small group Bible Study.

## Zion Quilters Request for School Kit Supplies

In many parts of the world children cannot go to school unless they bring their own school supplies. The Zion Quilters have completed 100 backpacks and are in need of your help to fill these bags with the required school supplies. They are asking for monetary donations that will be used to purchase school supplies in bulk. If you are able and willing to make a donation, please indicate "SCHOOL KITS" on your envelope or check. If you prefer to purchase supplies to donate, on your own, check the list in the narthex. In October, the assembled school kits will be delivered to the LWR ingathering place. 100 students will be blessed by your donations.

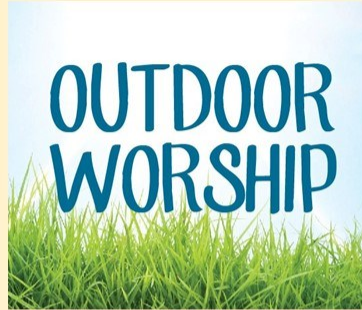
## AUGUST BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Trevor Bedont	August 5, 2017
Camden Langholz	August 11, 2024
Laira Matus	August 16, 2020
Claudia Matus	August 16, 2020
Elizabeth Schubert	August 17, 2008
Harley Eperthener	August 18, 2013
Olivia Bedont	August 27, 2022
Lainey Buzzelli	August 27, 2023
Nathaniel Luy	August 30, 2015
Christopher Rayburg	August 31, 2008

\*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.

# Worship & Picnic!

Sunday, August 3  
South Park -  
Black Ashes Grove  
11:00 am – 3:00 p.m.



Meats and water will be provided. Please bring something to share.

Last Names A-M --- Bring a side dish

Last Names N-Z ---- Bring a dessert

**NOTE:** Saturday, August 2, 2025 Worship at Zion at 5p

Sunday August 3, 2025 No morning worship at Zion

Worship will be at South Park as shown above

## KITCHEN COORDINATOR

Starting November 1, Zion will need someone to serve as the coordinator for the Kitchen Ministry. Responsibilities include making sure there are enough helpers for any church-sponsored event, checking food inventory for expiration dates, helping, and setting up for Lenten Meals, Saturday Night Cookouts, and various other events on the church calendar. The coordinator does not need to be at all these events, but makes sure there are volunteers willing to facilitate set up and clean up activities. Responsibilities also include making sure the kitchen is neat, and all materials are in their correct places. The kitchen is currently well organized, and the coordinator is someone who can continue this particularly important task. We currently have someone who has accepted the responsibility of ordering supplies for the kitchen through the church office, but is not available many months to coordinate the overall Kitchen Ministry. If interested, or need other questions answered, please contact Karen Stoddart or the church office.

The Ministry of Disciple Life.



## **GRANDMA'S ATTIC (FLEA MARKET)**

**Saturday**  
**September 13, 2025**  
**8 AM - 2 PM**  
and after  
Saturday Worship

**STOP BY AND FIND YOUR TREASURE!**

If you are able to help set up the week of September 8 or on the day of the sale, contact Sandra Schlessman at 724-782-0083.

### **Bake Sale**

Calling all bakers to make sweet treats to sell at Grandma's Attic in September. Best Sellers include: pies, muffins, breads and homemade cookies bagged by the dozen. Drop off date to be announced. Please contact Barb Warden if you have questions at 724-518-5509.



### **Community Clothes Exchange**

**Saturday 8/30/25**

**10A - 2 P**

If you are interested in helping with this exchange or future ones, contact Lane Magera.

***PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.***



## VBS 2025 - TRUE NORTH



The VBS video and more pictures can be found on Zion's Facebook page and Zion's website.

